

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT NO. 42

For week ending 18 October 1949

Volume II

The International Week

With chances favorable for Yugoslavia's election, the GA will vote to fill three SC vacancies on 20 October. The Balkan Conciliation Committee, after three weeks of futile effort, will report failure in settling the Greek dispute. A GA subcommittee voted in favor of Libyan independence by 1952 and independence for Somaliland by 1959. Meanwhile, the Special Political Committee voted to refer the issue of satellite peace treaty violations to the International Court and the Economic Committee unanimously adopted ECOSOC's recommendations for a technical assistance program.

Atomic anticlimax. The wholly minor Soviet suggestion that a count of atomic weapons be coupled to that of conventional armaments failed either to come up to advance billings or to add anything basically new to the situation. The USSR has consistently opposed separation of the problem of atomic energy from general consideration of disarmament. Whatever significance Malik's remarks in the SC may have, derive from the circumstance that the USSR is now known to have the A-bomb. They contain no hint that the USSR has altered its fundamental opposition to the notion of any effective international inspection. Nor is it likely that acquisition of the bomb would soften the Soviet position on this issue. Moscow will continue to wave before the US a variety of barbed proposals for outlawing the bomb or its use. As a minimum, the USSR may thereby expect to lay the foundation for anti-western propaganda, should its proposals be rejected. As a maximum, it might hope to hook the US on some proposal which would curtail US initiative and freedom of action thereby diminishing its atomic superiority.

Prospects for the US-UK peace proposal. The fate of the Anglo-American proposal to strengthen peace through UN action may furnish an early practical test of the effect of the announced Soviet possession of the A-bomb on political alignments in the GA. By adopting the US-UK proposal in its present form, the GA would not only reject the Soviet "peace" resolution and reaffirm

DOCUMENT NO. 42
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

instead the necessity for adherence to the principles already contained in the UN Charter, but would note with regret the failure of a minority to cooperate in this respect. Thus far about thirty delegates have indicated tentative approval of the Anglo-American proposal and there is no chance whatsoever of the Soviet resolution's adoption. However, there is the ever present danger, even independently of the influence of the A bomb, that any resolution will have to be watered down to insure passage. Should the resolution pass still incorporating a rebuke to the Soviet bloc, it would give some indication that Soviet possession of the A-bomb has had little effect on the political line up at Lake Success.

Adoption of German program and Technical Assistance highlight UNESCO session. Significant achievements of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's recent Paris Conference include: (1) extending UNESCO's German program for another year; (2) adopting a substantial program for fundamental education in Japan; (3) ordering its Director General to cooperate fully with ECOSOC in implementing the UN Technical Assistance Program. The UNESCO German program, applicable only to the Western Zones, was approved despite Satellite contentions that UNESCO should deal only with a unified Germany and that to continue its program now would encourage resurgent Nazism. The implied Satellite threat to withdraw from UNESCO if this program were approved did not materialize. The program for Japan was adopted only after the Conference side-stepped the question of Japanese attendance at UNESCO meetings and overrode Philippine and Australian efforts to prevent participation of Japanese nationals in UNESCO seminars.

UNESCO's role in UN technical assistance will be to provide educational aid on the basis of requests from governments and subject to the approval of the UNESCO Executive Board. Priority will be given to those requests which provide for establishment of state institutes for economic development.

New cases for ICJ. The GA Special Political Committee voted 41-5-9 to recommend that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) be asked for an advisory opinion as to whether or not Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria have violated the satellites' peace treaties by the trials of Cardinal Mindszenty and other religious leaders. The USSR supports the satellite position that the trials are matters of domestic jurisdiction, outside the ambit of UN competence, and also claims that under the treaties the victorious powers -- the UK, US and USSR -- must act in unison and no complaint against the satellites can legally be made unless the USSR joins in. Although the ICJ statute provides that its decisions shall have no binding effect except as to the parties to the dispute, nevertheless an ICJ opinion on the frequently cited "domestic jurisdiction" clause of the UN Charter would be most valuable.

Another case about to be put on the World Court calendar is that of Peru vs. Colombia, arising out of the action of the Peruvian political leader, Victor Raul de la Torre, in seeking asylum in the Colombian Embassy in Lima last January, a recurring issue of considerable importance in revolution-ridden Latin America.

D/TN NOTES

Ethiopia accepts Eritrean federation. The Emperor of Ethiopia has accepted a US suggestion that Eritrea have autonomy under his personal sovereignty. However, some Latin American nations appear to be cooling to the idea and it is not at all sure that Italy will agree to it. Meanwhile, the GA subcommittee's approval of independence for Somaliland by 1959, indicates that Italian trusteeship, if approved at all, will be of extremely short duration.

European trade liberalization. About half of the OEEC countries have submitted their proposals for unilateral and reciprocal reduction of quantitative restrictions on intra-European trade and the cumulative effect appears sizable. The reciprocal multilateral lists remain to be negotiated, however, and a much greater degree of future liberalization is probably necessary to achieve fully the objectives of the program.

The Voice with the Smile. Indicating the importance which it attaches to the defeat of Yugoslavia's bid for an SC seat, the USSR has adopted new tactics of persuasion at the UN. Besides circulating a memorandum in behalf of Czechoslovakia among UN members, the Soviet delegation has assumed the role of genial host at a series of dinners where Vishinsky was permitted to radiate amiability. Such unprecedented lobbying by the Soviet delegation represents a new departure and may also reflect Kremlin instructions that its representatives should display a mien less dour than that of the Molotov-Gromyko era.